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REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, and 4-14 are now of record in this application.

Claims 15-24 have been cancelled without prejudice. No claims have been amended and no new claims have been added.

Applicants kindly thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 1, 2 and 4-14 are allowable.

Entry of this amendment is requested to place the instant application in condition for allowance, or in the alternative, to reduce the issues on appeal. The amendment simply cancels all of the rejected and withdrawn claims, leaving only claims which have been indicated as allowable. The amendment was not presented earlier because applicants believed that the rejected claims were patentable for reasons presented in the previous amendment.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. 102/103

Claims 15-21 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by, or in the alternative, as obvious over Chen in view of Shinogi (Basic Characteristics of Low-Temperature Carbon Products from Waste Sludge, *Adv. Environ. Res.*, 2003, 7, 661-665) and Chiang. The Examiner has taken the position that the activated carbons of Chen contain a high phosphorous content (demonstrated by Shinogi) and anticipate the claims. Applicants respectfully disagree.

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Although applicants believe that claims 15-24 are patentable for the reasons presented in their last response, these claims have been cancelled in an effort to expedite prosecution.

Applicants reserve the right to file one or more Continuing applications drawn to the subject matter of the cancelled claims.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. 103

Claims 15-20 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 as being unpatentable over Carugati in view of Landis and Shinogi. The Examiner has taken the position that it would have been obvious to substitute the manure of Landis for the coal of Carugati as a source of humic acid for preparing activated charcoal.

Applicants respectfully disagree.

As noted above, although applicants believe that claims 15-24 are patentable for the reasons presented in their last response, these claims have been cancelled in an effort to expedite prosecution.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. 103

Claim 21 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 as being unpatentable over Carugati in view of Landis, Shinogi, and Chiang. The Examiner has taken the position that sewage would

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inherently contain a high phosphorous content. Applicants respectfully disagree.

As noted above, applicants believe that claim 21 is patentable for the same reasons as claim 15, presented in their last response. However, the claim has been cancelled in an effort to expedite prosecution.

For the reasons stated above, claims 1, 2, and 4-14 are believed to distinguish over the prior art of record. Allowance thereof is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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